

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND EXAMS**

The mission statement of Cedar Park Christian School expresses our belief that the basis of all teaching is God and His Word. A key objective is to provide Christian curriculum in all of our classes that will provide an environment in which each student is nurtured and trained so they will grow in godliness of character and action. For this reason, CPCS has opted not to offer Advanced Placement (AP) classes as part of our curriculum. Not only is the curriculum secular, it also has attracted some criticism for lacking depth and for some subjects being restrictive and outdated. However, our intent is to provide courses that accommodate the needs of students who desire a challenge and are able to move at a faster pace; for this reason we have designated Honors courses that offer a Christian world view, challenging curriculum and the best preparation possible for students as they face the challenges of college admission and the college experience.

Cedar Park Christian School graduates are not at a disadvantage in terms of college admission for not having AP designated classes on their transcript. College admission offices look at high school profiles to ascertain graduation requirements, grade distributions, college acceptance records and what classes are offered to students. Because CPCS does not offer AP classes, students are not penalized by college admissions offices.

Any real advantage from the Advanced Placement program comes from the exams that are offered each year that allows a student to demonstrate proficiency in a variety of academic subjects. Each exam is scored by College Board on a scale of 1-5. Many colleges offer some college credit for a score of 3, 4, or 5. CPCS provides students with the opportunity to earn college credit by offering Advanced Placement exams on the Bothell campus during the national exam period in early May. Students who wish to take AP exams will receive guidance concerning colleges' credit policies, preparation for the content and format of the exam and exam registration. By offering the AP exams, we are in no way endorsing the AP courses, and note that these exams are for students who are proficient in a subject and willing to study for the exam outside of class. Colleges treat AP exams and scores differently, so we advise all students and parents to review their options carefully before committing to the exams in May.